

From: [Montco Research Products, Inc.](#)
To: [Fellabaum, Pamela](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Putnam County Chemical Fire
Date: Monday, June 4, 2018 2:01:01 PM

Hey Pam,

Thanks for your call earlier. We have always enjoyed working with you. I'm sure this doesn't matter at all, but I have to say something about the email that you sent to me from Mr. Holmes. I do NOT know who he was getting information from, but here are some corrections.

First of all, I just went and inspected the nitrogen cylinder. It is completely intact. No sign of any "explosion". Secondly, if the nitrogen cylinder did explode, it wouldn't spread the fire, it would have helped put it out.

Mr. Holmes said that only 2 tanks were compromised??? I may not know what compromised means, but there is no damage or problems with any of our tanks. I really don't know what he is talking about there.

Next, the "multiple chemicals in the building" is not correct. We do NOT have Sodium Hydroxide, Hydrochloride Acid, or Chloroform in that building. We do NOT have Chlorine, Methanol, Formaldehyde, or Trichloromethane at our plant site.

I don't know why, but it just bugs me when people write things as facts that aren't correct when it is very easy to find out what the facts are.

sorry...had to vent.

Terry Clayton

P.S. I will send you what I wrote as soon as I finish it.

On Mon, Jun 4, 2018 at 11:51 AM, Fellabaum, Pamela <Pamela.Fellabaum@floridadep.gov> wrote:

FYI

From: Holmes, Michael P
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 9:51 AM
To: Maher, Jim <Jim.Maher@dep.state.fl.us>; Strong, Greg <Greg.Strong@dep.state.fl.us>; Kershner, Matthew <Matthew.Kershner@FloridaDEP.gov>; Simpson, Russell <Russell.Simpson@dep.state.fl.us>; Johnson, John S. <John.S.Johnson@dep.state.fl.us>; Roff, Nick <Nick.Roff@dep.state.fl.us>
Cc: Fellabaum, Pamela <Pamela.Fellabaum@FloridaDEP.gov>; Kennedy, Gracie <Gracie.Kennedy@dep.state.fl.us>; Carr, Kevin M <Kevin.M.Carr@FloridaDEP.gov>; Lewis, Luke <Luke.S.Lewis@dep.state.fl.us>; Chris Russell <russell.chris@EPA.gov>; Webber, Heather <Heather.Webber@FloridaDEP.gov>

Subject: Putnam County Chemical Fire

Hello all,

Below is a summary of the events that occurred on Saturday at the Montco Chemical Research Facility.

At 1605 EST Michael Holmes with Office of Emergency Response (OER) arrived On scene and met with incident command.

After initial assessment and discussion it was determined that an unknown source started a fire that quickly spread throughout the facility. The fire reached and compromised a Nitrogen tank, causing the tank to explode, further spreading the fire.

It was originally thought multiple tanks holding multiple chemicals had been compromised and released. After further investigation by fire teams in the hot zone, it was determined that only two tanks were compromised and one 55 gallon drum had spilled it's contents. The Responsible Party claimed the tanks held water, but a strong odor of possible Napthalene was detected in the air and the first team in the hot zone detected VOCs on their gas meter.

Multiple chemicals were inside the building to include Sodium Hydroxide, Hydrochloric Acid, Chlorine, Napthalene, Methanol, Ethyl Benzene, Chloroform, Formaldehyde, and Trichloromethane. However, it was determined that only the Napthalene had released from one 55 gallon drum.

After the fire was extinguished and smoldering was under control, a hazmat team was sent in to collect samples of the wastewater around the compromised tanks. Two samples were collected from areas near both tanks and the leaked drum. Both samples returned as negative for product and positive for water.

The Responsible party hired Alpha Omega as the cleanup contractor. Further sampling of the water and soil nearby was requested. The secondary containment had partially failed and the wastewater had impacted nearby soil.

There were no fatalities. However, 6 firefighters were taken to the hospital. Two firefighters suffered from heat exhaustion and four firefighters described symptoms of itching and slight burning on exposed skin. It is unclear if these symptoms are directly related to spilled product since the roof and containers were made of fiberglass and were on fire throughout the incident. All firefighters were released later in the day.

An inspection of the area afterward showed thriving animal life in a nearby creek with no sheening or odors detected. A strong odor could be smelled inside the facility but the RP states that is normal because they mix the chemicals inside the facility to create their end product. However, sampling will still be conducted once the facility infrastructure is deemed safe by the fire marshal. The facility creates chemicals used in the pharmaceutical industry.

The scene was secured and cleared at 2045 EST. Residents of the evacuated area were allowed to return at 2018 EST. The state fire marshal has determined that arson is not a factor and electrical wiring in the ceiling could possibly have been the source. Two employees were running the facility over the weekend.

The agencies involved in the response include Putnam County Fire and EMS, Clay County Fire and Hazmat, Putnam County Sheriffs Office, Putnam County Emergency Management, Florida Office of the State Fire Marshal, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

If you have any further questions please let me know.

Thanks,

Michael Poinsett Holmes

Emergency Response Specialist

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Office of Emergency Response

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